

CLAIMS

1. A police vehicle having a rear passenger compartment configured to transport a prisoner comprising:

a polymer vehicle seat within the rear passenger compartment having a center mount location;

a retractor disposed at the center mount location, including a mode switching mechanism capable of changing the mode of operation of the retractor between an automatic locking retractor mode and an emergency locking retractor mode in response to an amount of seat belt webbing extracted from the retractor; seat belt webbing operatively coupled to said retractor;

a prisoner screen;

a seat belt tongue coupled to said seat belt webbing; and

wherein the rear passenger compartment defines a first coupling position located adjacent to the vehicle seat and a second forward position coupling position located adjacent the prisoner screen, said first and second coupling positions being configured to restrain the tongue and wherein the retractor is configured to resist movement of the prisoner while the seat belt tongue is in the second location and the retractor is in the automatic locking retractor mode.

2. The police vehicle as defined in claim 1 further comprising a first seatbelt buckle disposed at the first coupling position; and a second seatbelt buckle disposed at said second coupling position.

3. The police vehicle as defined in claim 1 wherein said second coupling position is located at a b-pillar of the vehicle.

4. The police vehicle as defined in claim 2 said first seat belt buckle is disposed adjacent said seat.

5. The police vehicle as defined in claim 1 wherein when the tongue is in the first position, the webbing extends upward from the retractor to the second buckle and then to an anchor.

6. The police vehicle as defined in claim 5 when the tongue is in the second position, the webbing has a chest portion which is extracted so as to extend across the seat from the retractor, the belt further has a lap belt section which extends across the seat from the anchor to the tongue.

7. A method of restraining a prisoner on a vehicle seat within a rear passenger compartment of a vehicle having a prisoner screen having a forward first coupling position and a second coupling position located adjacent to the vehicle seat comprising the steps of:

providing a prisoner restraint system having a retractor disposed at a center mount seat location, the retractor including a mode switching mechanism capable of changing the mode of operation of the retractor between an automatic locking retractor mode and an emergency locking retractor mode in response to an amount of seat belt webbing extracted from the retractor and seat belt webbing operatively coupled to said retractor, a seat belt tongue coupled to said seat belt webbing;

placing the prisoner on the vehicle seat;

placing the tongue at the second coupling position;

protracting the webbing from the retractor engage the automatic locking retractor mode;

releasing the webbing so as to restrain the prisoner against the vehicle seat.

8. The method according to claim 7 comprising the step of coupling the tongue to a second coupling position forward of the seat.

9. The method according to claim 8 comprising the step of coupling the tongue to a first coupling position adjacent the vehicle seat.

10. The method according to claim 8 comprising the step of extracting the webbing to engage the automatic locking retractor mode.

11. The method according to claim 10 comprising the step of releasing the webbing to restrain the prisoner.

12. A police vehicle having a rear passenger compartment configured to transport a prisoner comprising:

- a polymer vehicle seat within the rear passenger compartment having a center mount location;

- a retractor disposed at the center mount location, including a mode switching mechanism capable of changing the mode of operation of the retractor between an automatic locking retractor mode and an emergency locking retractor mode in response to an amount of seat belt webbing extracted from the retractor; seat belt webbing operatively coupled to said retractor;

- a prisoner screen;

- a seat belt tongue coupled to said seat belt webbing; and

- wherein the rear passenger compartment defines a first coupling position located adjacent to the vehicle seat and a second forward position coupling position located adjacent the prisoner screen, said first and second coupling positions being configured to restrain the tongue and wherein the retractor is configured to resist movement of the prisoner while the seat belt tongue is in the first coupling position and the retractor is in the automatic locking retractor mode.

13. The police vehicle as defined in claim 12 further comprising a first seatbelt buckle disposed at the first coupling position; and a hook disposed at said second coupling position.

14. The police vehicle as defined in claim 12 wherein said second coupling position is located adjacent the b-pillar of the vehicle.

15. The police vehicle as defined in claim 13 said first seat belt buckle is disposed adjacent said seat.

16. The police vehicle as defined in claim 13 comprising a floor pan.

17. The police vehicle as defined in claim 12 said comprising a second seatbelt buckle disposed at the second coupling position.

18. The police vehicle as defined in claim 13 said first seat belt buckle is disposed adjacent said seat.

19. The police vehicle as defined in claim 13 wherein said first and second coupling positions are configured to releasably lock the tongue.

20. The police vehicle as defined in claim 13 said screen comprises a generally transparent window.